

Department of Transportation

State Project No. 98-103 Federal Aid Project Number 0139(033) Improvements on CT Route 139 between Marbar Street and Valley Road Towns of Branford and North Branford

**Public Informational Meeting Held at
Canoe Brook Senior Center
11 Cherry Hill Road, Branford
Wednesday, January 19, 2011**

Minutes

Presentation:

- There were approximately 20 attendees, including the Board of Selectman and the Town Engineer.
- A colored plan of the proposed improvements and an accident diagram were displayed. The Department presented the Preliminary Design proposal as well as the Rights of Way process to the attendees.
- The project involves intersection improvements on Route 139 between Marbar Street and Valley Road to improve sightlines and address the number and type of accidents occurring on this section of roadway. The following improvements are proposed:
 - ⇒ Widen Route 139 to provide an exclusive left-turn lane at School Ground Road and southbound bypass capability at Valley Road.
 - ⇒ Install a traffic signal at the Route 139/School Ground Road intersection.
 - ⇒ Re-grade the embankment slope on the inside of the existing horizontal curve on Route 139.
 - ⇒ Widen School Ground Road to provide exclusive left-turn and right-turn lanes at the intersection.
 - ⇒ Reconstruct Valley Road to form a T-type intersection.
- It is anticipated that minor property acquisitions, slope easements, and drainage right of way will be required.
- Estimated cost of the project is \$3.3 million funded by 90% Federal and 10% State funds.
- Construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2013 based on the availability of federal/state funding.

Public Comments and Questions:

- Why is there no change in the horizontal curvature in the vicinity of Valley Road? The Department responded that minor softening of the curve is proposed. The Department also stated that improving sightlines and keeping the curve relatively the same would provide a form of traffic calming at this location.
- There were several questions on whether the design of the project took into account the projection of traffic volumes and its association with growth and development of the area. The Department indicated that traffic volumes projected to year 2035 were used in the design of the project, and that any major traffic generators should be addressed to the State Traffic Commission's office.

- How would the design affect the sightlines for private driveways located along southbound Route 139? The Department responded that in general, the sightlines for these driveways would be improved. The Department would look further into how each driveway is affected and provide adequate sight distance wherever feasible.
- Is the Department aware of the proposed bridge project on School Ground Road? The Department responded that this project will be coordinated with the School Ground Road bridge project as well as the other project south of Marbar Street.

Adjournment: In general, the project was well received by those in attendance. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.